

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application. Applicant requests reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

1. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 7-9 are rejected under USC 102 (b) as being anticipated by Nizammuddin (6,786,850).

Applicant respectfully disagrees. With regard to claims 1, 3, 4, 7 and 8, all of which depend from claim 1, there is one clear distinguishing limitation of the present claims which requires the presence of a horizontal platform. There is no reference in Nizammuddin of a horizontal platform, in particular, a horizontal platform which contains two defined curvature guide paths. With regard to claim 9, the path guides of Nizammuddin proceed in downward and upward directions whereas with the invention of the present claims, the guide paths curve outwardly from their respective forwardmost ends and curve inwardly from their respective rearmost ends, both on a horizontal platform. Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

2. Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Walker (4,915,373).

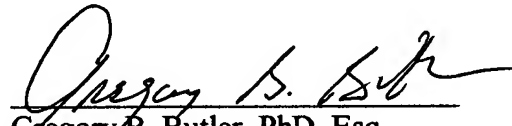
Applicant respectfully disagrees. The Examiner maintains that Walker discloses a horizontal platform with two defined curvature guide paths. Claim 1 of the Walker patent, from which all other claims depend, states "that there is a pair of endless guide paths arranged one on either side". The guide paths of the present invention are defined and limited by

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various and specific lengths and curvatures Furthermore, the guide paths of the present invention are not endless. Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present claims 1-9.

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gregory B. Butler", written over a horizontal line.

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